



## State of Utah

### Department of Natural Resources

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*Lieutenant Governor*

August 4, 2004

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, Sno Ben, Norman Haslem, S/047/048, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 21, 2004  
Time of Inspection: About 4:00 to 4:15 p.m.  
Conditions: Partly cloudy, 70's  
Participants: Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM; Paul Baker, DOGM

#### **Purpose of Inspection:**

The site has been regraded and seeded, but the operator may not have applied enough seed. We wanted to see how vegetation was progressing and whether the site was stable.

#### **Getting to the site:**

We got to the site from SR 149 just east of where it crosses the Green River. I do not recommend this route: it is a very rough road that goes through at least two canyons with exposed slick rock. There is a much better road that starts on US 40 on the east side of the Green River. I did not keep track of mileages and turns on this road, but it is not hard to follow the map.

#### **Observations:**

The site is graded to match surrounding areas, and I did not see signs of accelerated erosion. Most of the vegetation consists of cheatgrass, but there are some perennial grasses and shrubs (Photo 2). Without taking quantitative measurements of vegetation cover, I would not be able to say conclusively whether the cover value for the disturbed areas meets release criteria; however, I do not believe it meets this standard.

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Norman Haslem/Sno Ben Mine

S/047/048

Inspection Date: May 21, 2004; Report Date: August 4, 2004

### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Without using an herbicide, it would be very difficult for the operator to increase the amount of desirable vegetation. Cheatgrass is extremely competitive. Ideally, the operator would spray the entire area with a low concentration of an herbicide called Plateau in the fall prior to cheatgrass germination. The area would then be seeded.

Seeding without using an herbicide, there would probably be an increase in the amount of perennial vegetation, but it would be limited. Even so, I think it would be worthwhile. I would recommend that the site be drill seeded in the fall and that existing perennial vegetation be avoided as much as possible while drilling.

Other than revegetation, all aspects of reclamation appear to have been done adequately.

PBB:jb

cc: Norman Haslem, Operator  
Pete Sokolosky, Vernal BLM

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**ATTACHMENT**

**Photographs**

**S/047/048, Sno Ben Mine, Norman Haslem**

**Inspection Dated: May 21, 2004 ; Report Dated: August 4, 2004**



**Photo 1. Overview of the mine area.**



**Photo 2. Closeup of some of the vegetation.**